

APPENDIX

Explicit vs implicit grammar knowledge in written error correction

In each set below, items 5 and 10 were free from errors.

Group A

| test item | correction | generalization |
|---|------------------------|--|
| I have a dog. His name is Brutus. I am taking him for a walk every day. | take | simple present for routines |
| I can't go out now because I have very important exam on Friday. | a very important exam | indefinite article with singular count noun |
| Thank you for agreeing to look after my dog. If you will have any problems with it, please call me. | If you have any | simple present in conditionals |
| It was a beautiful day yesterday so I go for a long walk in the forest. | I went | simple past for actions at a specified past time |
| We're going to buy a new car next month. | ----- | ----- |
| I can't go out now. I am waiting to an important phone call. | waiting for | selection of a preposition |
| Did you go to Warsaw when you was in Poland last year? | you were | subject-verb agreement |
| I have some informations about your trip to Poland. | information | noncount noun |
| It was very cold in the mountains so I had to wear a very warm clothes. | wear very warm clothes | no article with plural |
| The party was great! At 3 o'clock we were still dancing. | ----- | ----- |
| When are you usually have your winter holidays in Poland? | do you usually have | do support |
| Could you help me to look for my passport? I can't found it anywhere. | can't find | infinitive following modal |

Group B

| test item | correction | generalization |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Last year my parents took me to New York. I was very excited because I have never been to America before. | I had never been | past perfect for actions before a point in the past |
| I've just heard that Tom had the car accident yesterday. Fortunately, he was not injured. | Tom had a car accident | indefinite article with singular count noun |
| I forgot to set the alarm clock and overslept. If I didn't take a taxi, I would have missed my plane. | If I hadn't taken | III conditional |
| I suggested to leave very early in the morning. | suggested leaving | verb + gerund |
| You will soon get used to living here. It's a really nice place. | ----- | ----- |
| Since last summer many teenagers has become interested in this new sport. | teenagers have become | subject-verb agreement |
| This story has happened five years ago. I was in Grade 6 at that time and only 10 years old. | This story happened | simple past for actions at a specified past time |
| I want to give you an advice: never talk to strangers. | give you some / a piece of advice | non-count noun |
| I wonder how will your parents feel when they discover what has happened. | how your parents will feel | inversion in embedded questions |
| If I had more money, I would travel a lot. | ----- | ----- |
| During my trip to Italy last summer I broke my leg and must go to hospital, where I spent the rest of my holiday. | and had to go | modal past |
| My brother was very ill and had to undergo an operation. Fortunately, the operation went good. | went well | adverb of manner |

Group C

| test item | correction | generalization |
|---|--|--|
| The job of a police officer in Poland becomes more and more dangerous at the moment. | is becoming | present continuous for change in progress |
| In my opinion, a state which gives the gay couples the right to adopt children acts against its citizens. | gives gay couples | no article with general reference plural noun |
| Wine has a pleasant taste and is a great way of socializing. If that were all it does, it would still be one of our most valued drinks. But it also has beneficial effects on our health. | that were all it did | simple past for non-fact |
| The borders should be closed and remain under surveillance. This is the most effective method of preventing the country to become infected. | preventing the country (from) becoming | verb + gerund |
| Since the fall of communism all Polish governments have promised to reduce taxes. | ----- ---- | ----- |
| Lying is part of human nature. One learns to lie in the early childhood. | in early childhood | no article with general reference non-count noun |
| A person who works as a foreign affairs reporter has to be accustomed to fly a lot. | to flying | adjective + preposition + gerund |
| This disease is spread by fleas circulating among rodents. How it is possible then that it can be transmitted to people? | How is it possible | inversion in questions |
| The most important thing to be considered is whether children raised in gay families will be able to lead normal life both as youngsters and adults. | a normal life / normal lives | article with a singular count noun / no article with plural noun |
| It is hard to imagine oneself being separated from other people and living alone. People are sociable creatures and the presence of others is essential. | ----- ---- | ----- |
| Small companies realise that only by a fierce struggle they can defend their position and save the jobs of thousands of employees. | can they defend | inversion following an adverbial expression |
| Thousands of young people in Poland apply for universities every year. Some of them pass the entrance exams and are accepted. | apply to | selection of a preposition |